

NCAA Violations
University of Tennessee
July 2018 - December 2018

Submission Date	Decision Date	RSRO Case #	Level	Sport(s)	Type	Sub-Case	Bylaw(s)	One-Sentence Summary	Discovery	Description	Mitigation	Institutional Action	SEC Action	NCAA Action
07/23/18	07/25/18	1016033	III	WSB	Athletics Personnel	Other, Volunteer Coach	11.6.1.2	During the institution's conference softball tournament, non-coaching staff members attended a game on a day in which the institution's team did not participate in the tournament.	The Conference Office notified the institution's Associate Athletics Director for Compliance of the potential violation based on a report from another institution in the conference.	On May 9, 2018, four student managers and one volunteer assistant coach attended a first round game of the conference softball tournament on a day in which the institution did not compete. The individual did not scout the game.	The institution's entire team and coaching staff attended the game. The student managers and volunteer assistant coach - along with the team's head coach - were unaware of the unannounced NCAA rule that prohibits non-coaching staff members from attending games on a day in which their team is not scheduled to compete, but permits attendance by student-athletes and countable coaches. No competitive advantage was gained in that the impermissible attendees did not scout the game. Rather, they attended as good stewards of the sport of softball and their institution's conference, which hosted the tournament. In support of the fact that scouting did not take place, one of the student managers regularly appeared on the television broadcast, sitting next to and socializing with the father of one of her high school friends who competes for another conference team. The student manager is not in possession of a radar gun, notebook, laptop or any other materials frequently associated with scouting.	Rules education will be provided to all members of the softball program. Non-coaching staff members will be encouraged to support future conference and NCAA tournament games that take place on days in which their team does not compete on television from an off-site location (rather than in-person, which is contrary to NCAA legislation).	The Southeastern Conference has accepted the University's actions and has not imposed any additional penalties related to this violation.	No further action should be taken by the NCAA enforcement staff in the matter.
08/09/18	08/13/18	1020766	III	WBB	Recruiting	Other	13.1.1.3	Assistant women's basketball coach had electronic correspondence with a prospective student-athlete (PSA) prior to receiving permission to contact from her prior institution.	Director of Compliance requested the permission to contact document after receiving a transcript request for the PSA. Assistant coach indicated she did not have a permission to contact document.	See below	Each coaching staff is encouraged to forward permission to contact documents to the Compliance office for confirmation prior to any communication. However, the assistant coach failed to secure such a document due to the public nature of the PSA's dismissal, and the considerable amount of time that passed from her dismissal to the communication from PSA's coach. Further, reports indicated that PSA had received a blanket release and that PSA was no longer enrolled at the institution shortly following dismissal.	Institution required the entire women's basketball staff to cease any communication with the PSA for a two week period following notification of the violation. The staff was provided with additional rules education, and instructed to provide the compliance office with any permission to contact documents received for validation prior to communication. The assistant coach was provided with a letter of admonishment.	The Southeastern Conference has accepted the University's actions and has imposed an additional penalty to preclude the involved coach from engaging in off-campus recruiting activities for 30 days.	No further action should be taken by the NCAA enforcement staff in the matter.
07/06/18	08/30/18	1020769	III	WBB	Other		11.3.2.7	Sports Information Director for Women's Basketball posted a tweet to the institution's account regarding three signee's participation in the upcoming McDonald's All American game.	Another institution brought the tweet to the Compliance office's attention. After further review, it was determined that a minor violation occurred.	Three incoming women's basketball PSAs were selected as McDonald's All Americans. The team's SID was contacted by the event organizers with additional information about the game, and image files to assist with the institution's release on the selection. The SID created a release, as did many other institutions and posted a link to the release via the team's social media site. A day or so following the post, another institution contacted the compliance office to inquire about the post, as their staff felt it was impermissible. After reviewing the post and consulting with the conference office, it was determined that a minor violation occurred. The tweet was thereafter removed.	Promoting participation of signees in post-season all star games, such as the McDonald's All American game, is common practice. As seen in the attached, our institution was one of many who posted about or promoted their signee's participation in the game. The SID believed that as the PSAs had signed valid NLI's, it was permissible to report on their athletic activities, which is accurate. However, the institution was informed per conference communications with the NCAA that inclusion of twitter handles and logos for the event have been deemed an impermissible promotion of the game. This minor addition is a fine line that many institutions are unaware of and appear to violate.	Institution required the tweet be removed, and that any future posts did not include additional social media tags to the event. The Sports Information staff was provided with additional education regarding the promotion of athletic events of signees.	The Southeastern Conference has accepted the University's actions and has not imposed any additional penalties related to this violation.	No further action should be taken by the NCAA enforcement staff in the matter.

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08/09/18	09/05/18	1020770	III	WBB	Recruiting	Sports Camps and Clinics	13.12.2.3.1	Head women's basketball coach and assistant coach attended a speaking engagement that was sponsored by a recruiting service.	Another institution brought the event to the Compliance Office's attention as that institution's coaching staff was interested in attending, and received word that other institutions participated in the past. Upon further review, it was determined that a violation occurred.	The Compliance Office was contacted by another institution regarding the National Exposure Basketball (NEB) Report Coaches Clinic. Specifically, the other institution's women's basketball staff was interested in speaking at the 2018 NEB event and noted that several institutions were advertised as attending the previous year. As the other institution believed the event was impermissible, it reached out to inquire if a waiver or favorable interpretation was previously obtained. The other institution provided a flyer and link to the event which the Compliance Office reviewed. Upon review and interviews of the women's basketball staff, the institution determined that a violation had occurred. The head women's basketball coach confirmed that she and an assistant coach spoke at the 2017 event. She indicated that they were contacted by a third party not associated with the recruiting service and were never informed that a recruiting service was sponsoring or even associated with the event, nor did they receive any promotional items prior to the event. The women's basketball staff did not seek approval from the Compliance Office prior to speaking at the clinic as they thought their attendance was permissible given coaches from other Division I institutions had already committed to attend.	Several other Division I head coaches participated in the 2017 event, including those within the institution's own conference. The solicitation for the staff's involvement came from a third party who is not affiliated with the recruiting service. The entity gave no indication that a recruiting service was involved and the staff was therefore unaware that NEB was associated with the event.	The women's basketball staff was provided additional rules education regarding outside speaking engagements and camps/clinics, and reminded to seek approval from the Compliance Office prior to engagement in such activities. Cases 594031 and 963236 were considered in determining the institutional action.	The Southeastern Conference has accepted the University's actions and has not imposed any additional penalties related to this violation.	No further action should be taken by the NCAA enforcement staff in the matter.
10/02/18	10/02/18	1031559	III	MFB	Athletics Personnel	Coaching Staff Number Limitations	11.7.1.1	The Director of Athletics engaged in impermissible coaching activities for a period of less than 30 seconds.	The Director of Athletics self-reported the incident to the Associate Athletics Director for Compliance upon learning that his actions may constitute a violation.	During football practice on Sept. 11, 2018, the Director of Athletics provided brief encouragement/instruction to two football student-athletes who were engaged in a blocking drill. The encouragement/instruction lasted less than 30 seconds.	The Director of Athletics is a former football coach. He was acting on instinct in communicating encouragement/instruction to two offensive linemen as he walked past a drill while viewing the team's practice. His communication to the involved student-athletes last less than 30 seconds.	The Compliance Office provided rules education to the Director of Athletics, clarifying for the specifics of what constitutes technical and tactical instruction. Given the nature of the incident, the institution requests relief from the SEC minimum penalty of a seven-day suspension from all countable and required athletically-related activities involving student-athletes.	Conference accepts institution's actions. In addition, institution shall also preclude the Director of Athletics from attending football practice for a five-day period. Institution shall also provide rules education on legislation related to coaching activity to all coaching and noncoaching staff members, including identifying conduct which constitutes coaching activity and the possible consequences for individuals who violate the legislation.	No further action should be taken by the NCAA enforcement staff in the matter.
11/09/18	11/19/18	1031784	III	MFB	Recruiting	Unofficial Visits	13.1.1.2	A two-year college prospective student-athlete (PSA) who was not a qualifier visited the institution and had contact with staff prior to completing one academic year at two-year college.	The NCAA enforcement staff called after seeing a social media post from prospect.	The involved staff member was hired to become a football analyst on February 19, 2018. He came to the institution from a two-year school. Shortly after arriving at the institution, the staff member talked with one of his former junior college student-athletes about visiting. The staff member was not thinking about NCAA Bylaw 13.1.1.2 when he first arrived. The institution was not and is not actively recruiting the prospective student-athlete (PSA), so no one else on staff thought about it either. The PSA made a visit on March 3 with his father, thus resulting in the violation.	The institution is not recruiting the PSA.	Rules Education was provided to all football staff members. The institution will reduce the number of permitted off-campus contacts with the PSA in the 2018-19 academic year.	The involved staff member shall not be permitted to participate in any on-campus recruiting activity for a seven day period. Institution shall also be prohibited from having contact (on or off campus) with the involved prospect for 30-days following the first permissible date for contact.	No further action should be taken by the NCAA enforcement staff in the matter.
12/19/18	01/03/19	1035633	III	MFB	Recruiting	Telephone Calls	13.1.3.1.2	An assistant football coach placed a telephone call to the father of a prospective student-athlete (PSA) prior to the first permissible date to call a PSA.	The violation was discovered through the Compliance Office's routine monitoring of coaches' telephone calls to/from PSAs.	An assistant football coach placed a telephone call to the father of a prospective student-athlete (PSA) on March 1 of the PSA's junior year in high school. The call lasted 25 minutes.	N/A	The involved assistant coach will not be permitted to make or receive telephone calls or send electronic correspondence to any PSA for 14 days (Oct. 16 through 29, 2018). Further, telephone calls and electronic correspondence between any institutional staff member and the involved PSA will be prohibited for 30 days (Oct. 16 through Nov. 14).	Conference accepts institution's self-imposed actions with no further action.	No further action should be taken by the NCAA enforcement staff in the matter.

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11/09/18	11/19/18	1035634	III	MBB	Awards and Benefits		16.11.2.1	A former student-athlete provided a current student-athlete with a ticket to a premium seating area at the institution's home football game.	An athletics development staff member notified the Associate Athletics Director for Compliance after being informed by another member of the athletics development staff who saw the student-athlete in the premium seating area.	A former student-athlete provided a current student-athlete with a ticket to a premium seating area at the institution's home football game on Sept. 8, 2018. Specifically, the former student-athlete purchased four Tennessee Terrace tickets from a ticket scalper on the day of the game. The scalper charged the former student-athlete \$100 (\$25/ticket). Several hours later, the former student-athlete, accompanied by two of his friends, saw the current student-athlete as each were separately approaching the football stadium. The current student-athlete was on his way to the student gate to retrieve his student ticket. The former student-athlete informed the current student-athlete that he had an extra ticket and asked the current student-athlete if he wanted to use it and watch the game him and his friends. The current student-athlete accepted the former student-athlete's offer and entered the game using the ticket provided by the former student-athlete. They entered the game during a second quarter weather delay and left at the conclusion of the third quarter. Neither the former student-athlete nor the current student-athlete ate or drank any of the complimentary food or beverage available in the Tennessee Terrace hospitality area.	The former student-athlete and the current student-athlete had the same prep school coach and have known each other (through the prep coach) for approximately four years, pre-dating the current student-athlete's enrollment at the institution. The current student-athlete thought his prior relationship with the former student-athlete permitted the interaction/benefit.	The current and former student-athletes were provided rules education related to extra benefits, current/former student-athlete interactions and the correct application of preexisting relationship legislation. The current student-athlete repaid the value of the benefit (\$25) to a charity of his choice (i.e., Emerald Youth Foundation).	The Southeastern Conference has accepted the University's actions and has not imposed any additional penalties related to this violation.	No further action should be taken by the NCAA enforcement staff in the matter.
Description for RSRO Case 1020766			Assistant women's basketball coach had contact with a prospective transfer student-athlete (PSA) prior to receiving permission to contact. Specifically, in late January 2018, the assistant coach was contacted by the former high school coach of the PSA regarding her interest in potentially transferring to the institution. This PSA was dismissed from her prior institution in October 2017, and the dismissal was made public. When the previous coach of the PSA indicated to the assistant coach that PSA received a blanket release due to the dismissal, assistant coach agreed to speak with the PSA and requested an official transcript. When the assistant coach submitted the transcript to the compliance office for evaluation, the Director of Compliance asked for a copy of the permission to contact for documentation, as is normal practice. The assistant coach indicated that she did not have a copy as she was informed PSA received a blanket release, but would ask the PSA to forward. The Director of Compliance instructed assistant coach to cease communication with PSA and her prior coach until permission was obtained, and assistant coach complied. Upon contacting PSA's previous institution, the DOC discovered that, although the PSA was dismissed and given permission to speak with all schools requested, she was still required to submit additional requests to the compliance office. Upon the institution's request, permission to contact was granted. At this point, the women's basketball team decided to cease recruiting PSA, and only contacted her again to notify her of the violation. Thereafter, the staff was instructed not to have contact with the PSA or her coach for a two week period.											